

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we are in danger of our public information services becoming the same as the very countries and governments that we stand against in this democracy. This is not an issue of free press or censorship but an issue of controlling the information that others are dependent on for their political choices. It is an issue of Sinclair using their power to control the knowledge of their subscribers and that's horribly dangerous. Not since William Randolph Hearst have we seen such blanket arrogance.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.